

the bark of the lawang tree used for stomach-ache. (g) *Chekur*, the roots of the chekur plant, a good wind medicine, has the essence of peppermint.

Mr. Howell remarks that no two manangs agree on the subject of their medicines, which are all supposed to come direct from each manang's particular saint (*empong*).

SOME STONE IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN SARAWAK.

The Stone Implements in the Sarawak Museum seem to fall naturally into two classes—

(i) NEOLITHIC, as determined by Sir Charles Lyell, who examined the first stone implement obtained from Borneo by the late Mr. A. H. Everett.

(ii) PREHISTORIC, i.e., of a very much later date than the Neolithic, and probably made even in Historic times.

The first type is very rough and has been shaped principally by chipping. Used either as adze-heads or scrapers probably. Those of the second type show a much more finished workmanship, being perfected apparently by rubbing. These are all adze-heads and when fitted to a wooden handle make a very good "bliong" similar to that now in use among the natives of Borneo, though the "bliong" of to-day has an iron head.

It is natural to suppose that the first type in all its roughness was sufficient for the simple wants of its maker, and that the more finished articles of the second type were evolved through the more advanced and varied needs of their makers, who were a less primitive race.

It should be remembered that although Europe has left the Stone Age some thousands of years behind, some of the natives of New Guinea even now depend on stone for their implements of warfare and domestic use. Therefore from a European standpoint, the age of these Bornean stone implements is not likely to be very great; those of the second type may possibly be found in use even now among some of the interior tribes, where metal is difficult to obtain.

Several were found not long ago in native houses in the Baram district, but apparently their original use had been lost sight of and they were preserved more as charms, and in some cases treated with great respect.

NEOLITHIC.

No. 1965.—Coloured cast of the first stone implement discovered in Borneo. The original was found by Mr. A. H. Everett embedded at the bottom of a bed of river-gravel exposed in a section on the left bank of the Siniawan River (cf. *Proc. Roy. Soc.* No. 203, 1880, pp. 6, 7); this is now preserved in the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford. The cast was presented to the Sarawak Museum by Dr. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S., February 17th, 1900.

No. 1526.—Large, roughly triangular or pear-shaped, one edge roughly sharpened, large chip out of one end (furthest from the sharpened edge) as if to facilitate a good grasp or to fit into a handle. Greatest length 192 mm., greatest breadth 125 mm.

No. 1527.—Slightly smaller and less in thickness than No. 1526, roughly oval in shape. Two-thirds of one long side are chipped to an edge and sharpened by rubbing into quite a good edge. Probably a scraper. Greatest length 155 mm., greatest breadth 115 mm.

No. 1528.—Small, oval in shape, surface beautifully smoothed. One half rounded and evenly edged, the other half bluntly rounded, possibly for fitting to wooden shaft. This specimen shows finer workmanship than the previous two. Greatest length 76 mm., greatest breadth 51 mm.

These three stone implements were found during river-wall excavations in Kuching; the actual site was the bed of a former stream which passed through a village built in the neighbourhood of the present vegetable market.

Mr. J. B. Scrivenor, Government Geologist, Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S., gives the following descriptions:—

“.....there is a great similarity between the
 “rock material and that commonly used for stone
 “implements in the Peninsula. It is fine grained
 “siliceous rock containing angular fragments of quartz,
 “iron-oxides, biotite and a very fine flaky micaceous
 “mineral which pervades the whole. It appears to be
 “an altered silty deposit: the toughness of the rock
 “is to be attributed to metamorphism.” (Reprinted
 from *Report on the Sarawak Museum* for 1906, by
 J. Hewitt, p. 12.)

These three implements were presented to the Museum by H. O. Etheridge, Esq., June 1906.

PREHISTORIC.

No. 1439.—An adze-head of hard sandstone sharpened at one end to a good edge. Greatest length 124 mm., greatest breadth 59 mm. (across sharpened end), least breadth (across blunt end) 41 mm.; approximate thickness 18 mm.

No. 1440.—Small adze-head of serpentine, edge not sharp and rather irregular; polished and weathered. Length 70 mm.; greatest breadth 51 mm., least breadth 40 mm.; approximate thickness 17 mm.

These two specimens were purchased by the Museum. Said to have been bought two generations ago by a Malay woman from a Sambas Land-Dayak. July 12th, 1904.

No. 1288.—An adze-head, edge chipped and weathered, sides rounded, of altered sandstone (?). Greatest length 102 mm., greatest breadth across middle 40 mm. Said to have been found at Pangkalen Ampat, Sarawak River. Purchased September 9th, 1903.

No. 1287.—A nicely worked adze-head, apparently of altered sandstone, with sharp cutting edge and bevelled sides and end. Length 138 mm., greatest breadth (across sharpened edge) 46 mm., least breadth (across opposite end) 31 mm. Formerly in possession of Malay in Kuching. Purchased September 8th, 1903.

No. 1038.—An adze-head from the Upper Sadong River. Length 126 mm., greatest breadth (across sharpened edge) 43 mm., least breadth (across thick base) 28 mm. Average thickness 26 mm. Made from some soft sandstone.

No. 1857.—Long, slender adze-head of altered shale. Sharpened edge at one end, uniformly bevelled sides and blunted end for insertion into handle. Length 115 mm., greatest breadth (across sharpened edge) 35 mm., least breadth (across blunt end) 25 mm.

Said to have been found in a hollow tree near Kuching. Purchased October 1911.

No. 1676.—Head of a "bliong," of whitish coarse sand-stone, which is not found near Claudetown. Length 179 mm. Width 38 mm. Lower surface flattened to fit on wooden shaft of bliong, upper surface

rounded, one end sharpened. Found in a swamp at Claudetown, Baram River.

RECENT.

No. 1479.—A flattened club of some serpentine rock, with a shaped handle and large perforation in it. Beautifully smoothed and polished. Length 356 mm.; greatest breadth 96 mm. Evidently of Papuan make and no doubt brought to Borneo by Bugis traders.

It was found in 1881 in the house of Pangeran Samah Digadong, the head chief of the Buludupi tribe (Mohammedans) in the lower Kinabatangan River, North Borneo. Presented by G. Hewett, Esq., January 26th, 1905.

While on the subject of Bornean stone implements I take this opportunity of correcting a statement which appeared recently in the publication* of another Museum. The writer, Dr. R. Hamlyn-Harris, in describing "The Skertchly Loan Collection" (anthropological specimens obtained by Professor S. B. J. Skertchly in Europe, Asia and America), says: "The collection also contains the only two stone implements yet known from Borneo, but the exhibitor (who found them) could get no geological proof of their age. He believes they may be older than the introduction of iron into Borneo, say before A.D. 1000."

As a matter of fact several stone implements have been known from Borneo for a long time. Dr. Haddon† in the account of his trip to the Baram district, Sarawak, in 1898-1899, describes the discovery of (i) a stone adze-head made from a thin slab of fibrolite, (ii) a very typical adze-head, made from a rather soft stone, (iii) another smaller and thicker, (iv) specimens of another type, "cylindrical and more or less oval in section, with an oblique polished face at one end, which may be either flat or more or less concave," (v) two stone implements; and he also heard of others in the possession of natives.

Mr. Everett's‡ stone implement, as noted above, was discovered and described over 30 years ago.

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* *Annals of the Queensland Museum*. November 1911, p. 185.

† *Head-hunters, Black, White and Brown*. By A. C. Haddon, Sc. D., F.R.S., 1911, pp. 368-375. Fig. 38.

‡ *Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo*. By H. Ling Roth, 1896, Vol. II, pp. 281-283 and figures, and *Proc. Roy. Soc.* 1880, No. 203, pp. 6, 7.